

REMARKS

Claim 10 has been examined and claim 11 is added herein. Accordingly, claims 10 and 11 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of all outstanding rejections and objection is requested.

The status of the cited U.S. Patent applications has been updated.

The examiner has required that the program listing at pages 13-23 be submitted on compact disc. All the program listings have been deleted from the specification and submitted on compact disc.

A new ABSTRACT is provided. The examiners objection regarding the recitation of "apparatus and method" in the ABSTRACT and TITLE OF THE INVENTION is obviated by the addition a method claim with this amendment.

The claims have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. This rejection is obviated by the filing herewith of a terminal disclaimer.

Claim 10 has been amended to remove the informalities objected to.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 10 has been amended to include the language proposed by the examiner.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl.

The combination recited in amended claim 10 includes a client computer and network server coupled to a network environment. The client computer displays one of a plurality of two-dimensional spatial views of an original multi-dimensional object. As described in the specification, the displayed two-dimensional spatial image could be a particular slice of a multi-dimensional anatomical image. In this example, a particular location in the slice can be specified by two dimensions, but the same location in the anatomical image is represented by three dimensions. (3:19-27). Thus, many different slices taken from different orientations could be displayed on the client computer based on the original multi-dimensional dataset representing the anatomical image.

Accordingly, claim 10 recite that locations in the two-dimensional spatial image are specified by first, second, and additional coordinate of a corresponding location in the original multi-dimensional image. The server reads a secondary image map that has unique entries corresponding to values of the first, second, and additional coordinates of the original image, with each entry holding a pointer value.

When a particular location of the two-dimensional spatial image is selected on the client computer, particular values of the first, second, and additional coordinates are sent to the network server over the network environment. The network server uses the particular coordinates to access the secondary image map to retrieve a selected pointer corresponding to the location of the original multi-dimensional image specified by the particular first, second, and additional coordinates. The selected pointer accesses a hot program action associated with the location in the original multi-dimensional image.

Thus, by adding a dimension to the image map protocol, the display of an image on the client side of the computer network can be independent of the server performing the object identification of the image. (8:33) No matter which two-dimensional view, or slice, of the multi-dimensional image is displayed on the client computer, the server uses the same secondary image map which correlates to the original multi-dimensional image.

The reference Wistendahl describes an interactive digital media (IDM) program that includes frame data and object mapping data. The frame data includes a series of frames each having a frame address and with pixels in the frames having j and k indices. Hot spots may be defined in the frame and the frame index and pixel indices are stored independently as N data. The IDM program references "hot spot" N Data values as anchors for hyperlinks to other files or executable functions. (6:33).

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) requires that all claimed elements be suggested or taught by the reference. Accordingly, the rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

There is no disclosure in Wistendahl of displaying one of a plurality of two-dimensional spatial views of a multi-dimensional original object and accessing a secondary image map, utilizing particular first, second, and additional coordinates of a selected particular location on a spatial two-dimensional image, where the secondary image map has entries correlating to values first, second, and additional coordinate of the original multi-dimensional image.

In Wistendahl, only a single view of the video clip is used and the N data is correlated to only that view. Thus, Wistendahl discloses a tightly coupled mapping between the N data and the video clip.

Further, Wistendahl does not teach a client/server where the client communicates with the server in a coupled network environment.

Claim 11 recites similar limitations and is thus allowable for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (925) 944-3320.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Krueger  
Reg. No. 30,077

LAW OFFICE OF CHARLES E. KRUEGER  
P.O.Box 5607  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Tel: (925) 944-3320 / Fax: (925) 944-3363